

Application No.: Unknown
Docket No.: AD6791BEEPT

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REMARKS

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1 to 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner has stated that the use of "and/or" in the claims is not clear.

In response to the Examiner's concern, Applicant has removed the "and" portion of the wording and respectfully submits that this change will alleviate her concerns.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 to 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Girardot et al. (U.S. patent 5,658,041). Girardot et al. disclose a motor vehicle front body panel that includes at least one rigid cross-member that extends between two support pieces. The support pieces may be of plastic and may be molded around the ends of the cross-member, which may be metal [see abstract].

The Examiner states that "Girardot et al. '041 discloses an integral structure comprising a metal surface (1 and 17) and plastic support members (2); wherein said metal surface comprises at least one edge portion formed at least in part with a serrated pattern (18) sufficient to secure at least one support member therealong in Figures 1 and 7" [col. 5, lines 43-46].

The Examiner points to items 18 which are only illustrated in Figure 10. Items 18 are "[f]astening lugs [...] provided on the rigid cross-member 17 for accommodating the lower part of a radiator 19, the upper part of which is intended to be fastened to the upper rigid cross-member 1." There is no mention in Girardot et al. of securing a plastic support member along fastening lugs 18, nor is any indication made that it would be possible to secure a plastic support member therealong.

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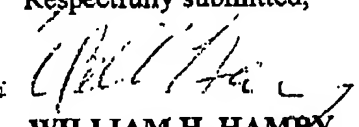
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Figures 1 and 7 of Girardot et al. illustrate support pieces 2, but do not contain an edge portion having a serrated pattern. No disclosure is made by Girardot et al. of plastic rib supports secured to a metal surface comprising an edge portion formed with an undulating or serrated pattern.

Claims 1 and 5 have been amended to make more clear that a plastic support member is secured to the metal surface along at least one edge portion formed at least in part with an undulating or serrated pattern. Such a structure is not disclosed in Girardot et al.

In view of the foregoing, allowance of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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